

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS SOFIA 0153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BU, UR

SUBJECT: USSR-BULGARIAN TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED

REF: SOFIA 2117

1. BULGARIAN PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED SIGNING IN MOSCOW JANUARY 17 OF USSR - BULGARIAN TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 3.1 BILLION ROUBLES FOREIGN TRADE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES FOR 1975. PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED BY SOVIET MINISTER N. PATOLICHEV AND BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER IVAN NEDEV. ANNOUNCEMENT FURTHER INDICATES MUTUAL DELIVERIES BETWEEN USSR AND BULGARIA WILL INCREASE BY 10 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR (A FIGURE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE PLANNED 9 PERCENT INCREASE IN BULGARIA'S TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE FOR 1975), AND WILL GUARANTEE 600 MILLION ROUBLE OVER-FULFILMENT OF LONG-TERM 1971-75 COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT LONG ON GENERALITIES, SHORT ON SPECIFICS. USSR WILL SUPPLY LONG LIST OF ITEMS INCLUDING ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS CRUDE OIL, PETROCHEMICALS, COAL, IRON ORE, FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALS, TIMBER, COTTON, UNCLASSIFIED

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CELLULOSE, AND WOOL. IN RETURN BULGARIA IS TO SUPPLY

HAULING EQUIPMENT, COMPUTERS, ELECTRIC MOTORS, AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, AND PARTS FOR TRUCKS AND CARS, AS WELL AS FOOD PRODUCTS. NO BREAKDOWN BY COMMODITY AMOUNTS WAS GIVEN. IN REMARKS FOLLOWING SIGNING, HOWEVER, PATOLICHEV IS QUOTED AS DRAWING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FACT RELATIVE SHARE OF MACHINERY IN TOTAL OF PROTOCOL HAS INCREASED TO 43 PERCENT, "AN ESSENTIAL INDICATOR (OF OUR) POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESPECT."

3. PREEMINENT POSITION OF USSR IN BULGARIA'S FOREIGN TRADE ASSURED ANEW BY SIGNING OF PROTOCOL. ONCE AGAIN USSR WILL BE BULGARIA'S LEADING TRADE PARTNER, COMMANDING OVER 50 PERCENT OF BULGARIA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1975. BULGARIA FOR ITS PART WILL RETAIN ITS POSITION AS FOURTH LEADING TRADE PARTNER WITH THE SOVIET UNION.  
HERZ

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